

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-9 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims.

1. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit, ~~said~~ the outboard engine unit including+ an engine; a propeller drivable by the engine; a drive shaft for transmitting a driving force from the engine to the propeller; a casing assembly supporting thereon the engine and rotatably supporting and accommodating therein the drive shaft, ~~said~~ the outboard engine unit being attached via the casing assembly to a body of a boat during use of the outboard engine unit for tilting and steering movement; and a covering assembly defining at least part of an engine space for accommodating therein the engine, ~~said~~ the covering assembly including separate left and right cover members, ~~said~~ the cover joining structure comprising:

fixedly joining sections provided on respective ones of opposed joining edges of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members, the opposed joining edges of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members being abutted against each other with ~~said~~ the fixedly joining sections of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members overlapped in face-to-face relation with each other in

a front-and-rear direction of ~~said~~ the outboard engine unit;
and

~~fastener~~ fastening means for fastening together ~~said~~
the fixedly joining sections, overlapped in face-to-face
relation, in the front-and-rear direction, to thereby join
together ~~said~~ the left and right cover members.

2. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in
an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 1; wherein ~~said~~
the left and right cover members are comprise port-side and
starboard-side undercover members of an undercover of ~~said~~ the
covering assembly detachably attached with respect to the body
of the boat, and wherein the opposed joining edges of ~~said~~ the
port-side and starboard-side undercover members are abutted
against each other, with ~~said~~ the fixedly joining sections
provided on respective ones of opposed joining edges of ~~said~~
the port-side and starboard-side undercover members overlapped
in the front-and-rear direction of ~~said~~ the outboard engine
unit, and fastened together in the front-and-rear direction.

3. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in
an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 1; wherein ~~said~~
the fixedly joining section provided on one of ~~said~~ the left
and right cover members has a surface slanted from it proximal
end toward its distal end in one of forward and rearward

directions while ~~said~~ the fixedly joining section provided on the other of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members has a surface slanted from its proximal end toward its distal end in other of the forward and rearward directions, and ~~said~~ the fixedly joining sections of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members are overlapped with each other in the front-and-rear direction along the slanted surfaces, and

wherein ~~said~~ the fixedly joining section provided on the one of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members has an elongated hole extending therethrough in the front-and-rear direction and elongated in a left-and-right direction of ~~said~~ the outboard engine unit, ~~said fastener~~ the fastening means being loosely inserted through the elongated hole and then threadedly engaged at its distal end portion in a threaded hole formed in ~~said~~ the fixedly joining section provided on the other of ~~said~~ the left and right cover members.

4. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 1; wherein the cover assembly further comprises an upper cover member, the left and right cover members comprise left and right undercover members, respectively, and the cover joining structure further comprises frame members integrally secured to respective inner side surfaces of resin-made outer wall sections of the left and right undercover members, and the

fixedly joining sections are provided on respective ones of the frame members of the left and right undercover members for joining together the outer wall sections of the left and right undercover members. ~~, said outboard engine unit including: an engine; a propeller drivable by the engine; a drive shaft for transmitting a driving force from the engine to the propeller; a casing assembly supporting thereon the engine and rotatably supporting and accommodating therein the drive shaft, said outboard engine unit being attached via the casing assembly to a body of a boat for tilting and steering movement; and a covering assembly defining at least part of an engine space for accommodating therein the engine, said covering assembly including an upper cover and an undercover including separate left and right undercover members~~

~~said cover joining structure comprising:~~

~~frame members integrally secured to respective inner side surfaces of resin-made outer wall sections of said left and right undercover members; and~~

~~fixedly joining sections, provided on respective ones of said frame members of said left and right undercover members, for joining together the outer wall sections of said left and right undercover members.~~

5. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 4; wherein each of ~~said~~ the frame members is made of resin.

6. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 4; ~~which~~ further ~~emprises~~ comprising a bolt inserted through ~~said~~ the fixedly joining sections, provided on the ~~said~~ frame members of ~~said~~ the left and right undercover members, in a front-and-rear direction of the outboard engine unit, to thereby join together ~~said~~ the left and right undercover members.

7. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 4; ~~which~~ further ~~emprises~~ comprising a bolt inserted through ~~said~~ the fixedly joining sections, provided on ~~said~~ the frame members of ~~said~~ the left and right undercover members, in a vertical direction of ~~said~~ the outboard engine unit, to thereby join together ~~said~~ the left and right undercover members.

8. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 4; ~~which~~ further ~~emprises~~ comprising a bolt inserted through ~~said~~ the left and right undercover members, in a left-and-right direction of ~~said~~ the outboard engine unit, to thereby join together ~~said~~ the left and right undercover members.

9. (currently amended) A cover joining structure in an outboard engine unit as claimed in claim 4; wherein each of said the fixedly joining sections is provided on a portion of said the frame member which is located within the engine space as viewed from above and located above mutually-joined surfaces of said the upper cover and said the undercover as viewed sideways.